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SUBJECT: JOINT COMMISSION BRIEFING SESSION

1. SUMMARY - ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR
KEWAL SINGH CO-CHAIRLED COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF JOINT COM-
MISSION ACTIVITIES ON DECEMBER 17. SINGH'S REASONABLE
APPROACH RESULTED IN A USEFUL MEETING. ECONOMIC AND COMMER-
CIAL SUBCOMMISSION REVIEW AGREED ON WORK PROGRAM WHICH WOULD
CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT ISSUES ON
WHICH WE COULD MAKE PROGRESS BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE DIS-
CUSSION ON BROAD TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY ISSUES AND
NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. IN DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
SUBCOMMISSION, DR. GOHEEN MADE FRANK COMMENTS ABOUT DIFFI-
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CULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS. HE RAISED QUES-
TION WHETHER, GIVEN BUDGETARY RESTRICTION, FUNDS DIVERTED
TO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MIGHT BE BETTER SPENT ON OTHER SUBCOM-
MISSION ACTIVITIES. INDIANS RECOGNIZED PROBLEMS AND OFFERED
TO REVIEW FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES, BUT MADE
CLEAR ITS IMPORTANCE IN THEIR VIEW. REVIEW OF SCIENCE

AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION RESULTED IN UNDERSTANDING THAT MARCH 1977 MEETING MIGHT HAVE TO BE POSTPONED IF THERE IS NO SIGN THAT GOI PROJECT APPROVAL LOGJAM CAN BE BROKEN. INDIANS PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, INDIAN AMBASSADOR SINGH AND THEIR RESPECTIVE STAFFS MET DECEMBER 17 FOR REVIEW OF INDO-U.S. JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND PROSPECTS. PARTICIPATING ON THE U.S. SIDE WERE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS (NEA), DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PREEG (EB) REPRESENTING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION, DR. GOHEEN, CO-CHAIRMAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE SUBCOMMISSION AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY (OES) FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION. INDIAN EMBASSY MINISTERS VENKATESWARAN, DIXIT, BAIJAL, INAM RAHMAN AND ANANDA KRISHNAN SPOKE FOR THE INDIAN SIDE.

3. THE AIM OF THE 90 MINUTE MEETING, WHICH WE ORGANIZED IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER REQUEST FROM AMBASSADOR SINGH, WAS TO CLARIFY THE JOINT COMMISSION MECHANISM, IDENTIFY BOTTLENECKS AND GAIN A CLEARER IDEA OF INDIAN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SUBCOMMISSIONS. THAT PURPOSE WAS WELL SERVED THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS, CHARACTERIZED BY MUTUAL FRANKNESS AND UNDERSTANDING. AMBASSADOR SINGH'S REASONABLE APPROACH, AIMED AT SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS RATHER THAN ASSIGNING BLAME FOR SHORTFALLS, RESULTED IN A USEFUL MEETING.

4. ECON/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION - A) INDIANS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIES AND NOTED THAT INDO-U.S. TRADE HAD RISEN SHARPLY SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AND JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. COMMERCIAL MINISTER DIXIT ASSERTED THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SUBCOMMISSION EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDO-U.S. COMMERCIAL COOPERATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND FOR INCREASED UTILIZATION OF THE 1974 RUPEE AGREEMENT'S 75/25 PERCENT EXPORT PROPOSAL. HE EXPRESSED CONTINUING CONCERN FOR UNRESOLVED ITC INVESTIGATIONS OF PRODUCTS IMPORTANT TO INDIA AND URGED THAT THE SUBCOMMISSION TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE THE PROCESS. ECONOMIC MINISTER BAIJAL OUTLINED THE APRIL FERA AMENDMENTS, WHICH HE ASCRIBED TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS AT LAST MARCH'S SUBCOMMISSION MEETING, AND SAID THAT THE TAX TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF MARCH 1977. B) PREEG PRESCRIBED WORK PROGRAM THAT WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF BROAD ISSUES OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY (GATT, MTN, GSP) BUT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT ISSUES IN WHICH WE CAN

MAKE PROGRESS. HE URGED SUBCOMMISSION TO WORK WITH JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY COMPATIBLE JOINT VENTURES IN PRIORITY SECTORS WHERE GOI WANTS U.S. PARTICIPATION.

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PREEG NOTED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ISSUES, CITING INDIA'S LEADING ROLE IN G-19 CONSIDERATIONS OF DEBT AND ODA AND G-77 POSITIONS ON COMMODITIES. INDIANS WELCOMED THIS AS ADDITIONAL DIMENSION BY WHICH SUBCOMMISSION TALKS COULD PROVIDE MUTUAL INSIGHTS IN SUPPORT OF HIGH LEVEL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH CONSENSUS THAT SUBCOMMISSION WOULD CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL ECON/COMMERCIAL COLLABORATION BUT COULD ALSO MAKE VALUABLE INPUT ON MAJOR MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

5. EDUCATION AND CULTURE - A) GOHEEN MADE GENTLE BUT FRANK EXPOSITION OF DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED IN IMPLEMENTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. HE WONDERED WHETHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM COULD BE JUSTIFIED, CITING QUESTIONABLE COST BENEFIT RATIO, ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND LACK OF PROMISING U.S. APPLICANTS FOR SECOND YEAR. HE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE OF EXPANDING EXISTING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SUCH AS FULBRIGHT, AIIS, AND EAST WEST CENTER, ALLOWING SUBCOMMISSION TO CONCENTRATE ON JOINT SEMINARS, JOINT MUSEUM ACTIVITIES, FILM PROJECTS, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES YET TO BE EXPLORED. GOHEEN STRESSED OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND JOINT SEMINAR PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MORE CONTINUITY AND FOLLOW-UP THAN HAD BEEN POSSIBLE IN PAST. GOHEEN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IS NOT FINANCIALLY RECIPROCAL. IN ORDER TO ATTRACT HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICAN SCHOLARS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSTANTIALLY THE STIPENDS PROVIDED BY THE INDIAN SIDE. THIS OUTLAY COMBINED WITH THE COST OF SUPPORTING THE INDIAN FELLOWS IN THE U.S. RESULTS IN A U.S. CONTRIBUTION FAR EXCEEDING THAT OF THE INDIAN SIDE (ALMOST 5 TO 1). CU'S SHARE OF THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER INDIAN PROGRAMS. GOHEEN ALSO QUESTIONED PRIORITY GOI ACCORDED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, WHEN GOI REJECTED SUBCOMMISSION FELLOW'S RESEARCH PROJECT ONLY TO GIVE LATER APPROVAL TO SIMILAR PROJECT, OR EVEN SAME SCHOLAR, UNDER PRIVATE U.S. SPONSORSHIP. B) EDUCATION MINISTER RAHMAN RECOGNIZED PROBLEMS IN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BUT URGED THAT IT BE GIVEN FAIR TRIAL BECAUSE, UNLIKE EXISTING INDO-U.S. ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, WHICH CENTER ON INDOLOGY, IT IS AIMED AT BROADER RANGE OF SCHOLARLY DISCIPLINES. HE AGREED THAT OTHER SUBCOMMISSION ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE EXPANDED, BUT NOT

AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. IN SUMMATION, AMBASSADOR SINGH SAID THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD IDENTIFIED VALID PROBLEMS AND THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DELHI REVIEW STIPENDS FOR U.S. PROFESSORS AND THE APPARENT FAILURES OF COOPERATION CITED BY THE U.S. SIDE. FYI: RE PARTHASARATHI'S INATTENTION TO SUBCOMMISSION MATTERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOHEEN DID COMMENT "MY GOOD FRIEND G.P. IS OFF TO SO MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS THAT I'M AFRAID HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS SUBCOMMISSION." END FYI.

6. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - A) SCIENCE COUNSELLOR ANANDA KRISHNAN REVIEWED RECORD TO DATE IN GENERALLY POSITIVE TERMS. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO THE GOI PREFERENCE IN SUB-COMMISSION ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL RATHER THAN PURE SCIENCE PROJECTS, AS WELL AS TO THE PROBLEMS GOI HAS WITH METHOD OF GENERATING PROJECTS, OF FUNDING, AND OF ASSESSING PROJECT COMPATABILITY. B) GANLEY EXPRESSED DESIRE OF U.S. TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PRIORITY PROJECTS, BUT SAID SIGNS OF SLOW ACTIVITY WERE MATTER OF INCREASING CONCERN. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES INDIAN CABINET SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE HAS MET ONLY ONCE AND APPROVED ONLY ONE PROJECT SINCE LAST FEBRUARY, WHILE IT REJECTED 4 AND HAS NOT YET REVIEWED 7 PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY CLEARED BY GOI. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS NOT MET EVEN ONCE. UNLESS CAUSES OF SLOW PROGRESS CAN BE CORRECTED THE NEXT SUB-COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED IN MARCH WILL HAVE ONLY THE MINIMAL BASIS FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING. AMBASSADOR SINGH RESPONDED IN MOST FORTHCOMING TERMS; AGREEING THAT PRODUCTIVE MEETING WOULD REQUIRE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD QUERY HIS GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THE SLUGGISHNESS IN GETTING PROJECT APPROVAL. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS SUGGESTED THAT QUESTION OF HOLDING THE MEETING AS SCHEDULED BE LEFT OPEN PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE. ROBINSON

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